TEEN and NOW!

"Mama Rach"

By Frances H. Paulette

Rachel Ferguson Lawson, in 1921 when she graduated from high school.

Rachel Ferguson Lawson, age, 2 years, and her late brother. Sam Ferguson, at age 5 years.

It had been a tiring day for the young man; his first day on a new job in a completely new town. Now, finally, he was headed for a restaurant, a good dinner, and then on to his motel. By the next evening he hoped to have something a bit more permanent. Well, not exactly permanent, but some place that a fellow could call home until he was able to move his family to town in just a few weeks. Now he knew that something like what he wanted was going to be hard to find, but wait a minute, exactly what was it one of the fellows at work had said? As well as he could remember it was something like, "Why don't you try 'Mama Rach'? She'll take good care of you until your family gets here." Then one of them hastily shoved a phone number in his direction.

As the young man looked through his pockets to find the phone number of 'Mama Rach', his mind began to conjure up all kinds of pictures of the lady he was about to call. He felt pretty sure the fellows wouldn't steer him wrong, or would they? Quite often guys liked to have a bit of fun at the expense of a newcomer. All kinds of images flashed across his mind as he sat back in the chair, pausing before dialing the number.

'Mama Rach' . . . she could be a fat, old, lady with frizzled hair who was continually 'minding your business' because she had nothing better to do. "Oh, no! that's not for me," he thought. But as he quickly dismissed that picture from his mind, another image was coming into focus on the screen of his imagination. Wow! this one was different! He saw a youngish divorcee, or maybe a widow, attractive - - - almost too attractive, dressed in a suggestive manner, and a bit pushy. Somehow or other he didn't relish the thought of having to explain that kind of landlady to his wife; not that she had ever had anything to worry about, but why rock the boat? Suddenly he thought, "This is sheer nonsense, I'll just call, make an appointment, and see for myself." With a hesitant manner, he dialed the number.

After just a few rings, the young man heard a soft, "hello" at the other end of the line. It definitely was not the voice of a cantankerous old hag, nor was it the voice of a sexy siren! It was a lovely voice, gentle, but at the same time with a suggestion of strength. Was he relived! He made an appointment for the next evening and he felt sure he would not be disappointed. He was not, he met a lovely lady.

A visitor looking for the home of 'Mama Rach', Mrs. Rachel F. Lawson, on Lee Street, Appomattox, would find a big two story house with wide front porch. The house, like the inhabitant has about it an friendly air, it sort of seems to say, 'welcome, come on in.'

Rachel Ferguson Lawson, a daughter of the late State Senator, Samuel L. Ferguson, and Adelia Mann Ferguson, was born and reared in Appomattox County. Her birthplace was "The Brickhouse" on highway 460 just west of Appomattox. "The Brickhouse", as it was known to everyone, was built by Rachel's father on the land acquired shortly after he reached manhood. It had once been known as the old Robertson farm home and later the Martin farm.

The Fergusons lived in the "Brickhouse" until 1913 when they moved to "Courtland", the family home on Court Street in the town of Appomattox.

"Courtland", a story-book home, was begun in 1911, completed in 1913, and dismantled in 1970. Incidentally, 'Mama Rach' has in her back yard a gazebo, made entirely of wood and brick from the family home, "Courtland."

The beautiful home, often called a mansion, with the impressive name of "Courtland" consisted of 32 rooms, four complete bathrooms, three floors above the ground and boasted an elevator.

Rachel laughingly recalled the very first night the family spent in the new home. Everything was new and they were so proud of it. All of the bathrooms were gleaming white. One, however, did not remain that way for long. Rachel had a dog, a white poddle named "Rooney". While the family was busily getting settled in the new home, "Rooney" got to rambling, investigating his new quarters. Can you imagine to what part of the house he rambled? With thirty-two rooms to investigate, he would have to pick the coal bin!

Now when you put a snow-white poodle in a coal bin, however brief the stay, the result will be disastrous! Rachel saw her pet, and was naturally quite upset. As quickly as possible, she hurried him upstairs and into one of the new white bathrooms close to her bedroom. As Rachel was getting her beloved pet all wet and beginning to 'soap' him thoroughly, he decided he needed to 'shake'; before Rachel could stop him he had hopped out of the tub and 'shake' he did! All over the new white bathroom. Needless to say, her Mother came along about that time and Rachel got a spanking! So, you see, it's not at all hard for Rachel to remember the first night the family spent in "Courtland."

Rachel Ferguson Lawson was one of five children. She had two brothers, Sam Ferguson, and Joe Ferguson, both deceased. She had two sisters, the late Virginia Ferguson Henderson and the late Russell Ferguson Wagers.

After receiving her primary and elementary education in Appomattox, Rachel graduated from Appomattox High School and then attended the college of Randolph-Macon in Lynchburg for two years. Upon leaving college, Rachel worked in the law office of her father in Appomattox and later worked for Joel Flood.

Rachel was married in 1924 to J. Raymond Lawson, now deceased, also a native of Appomattox County. They are the parents of four boys, John Raymond Lawson, Jr. (Jack); Samuel Robert Lawson, (Bobby); Fred Hobson Lawson; and Harry Gordon Lawson. All four of her sons, successful men in their chosen field, reside in Appomattox. On the back of her car, Rachel has put a bumper sticker reading, "Let me tell you about my grandchildren". She is well qualified to do just this. She has fourteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her home is filled with pictures of her children, grandchildren, great - grandchildren and other family members and friends.

Pictures are not all that you will find when you enter the home of Rachel Lawson. There are antiques and gifts from all over the world and there is . . . but wait, let me tell you about that next week, and I might add, a lot more! Save me a little time next week, won't you? I think you'll be glad you did! "Mama Rach" is quite a gal!

HOLLYWOOD

Our hearts were deeply saddened when the word came that our beloved friend and minister in Christ, Rev. J. J. Bowman of Lynchburg, has passed away. He will be so greatly missed by so many who loved him. We extend our deepest sympathy to his dear wife and family.

We are so glad Mrs. Edna Covington is improving after her operation at the Lynchburg General Hospital. We pray she may have a very speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Franklin and family visited Raymond's mother, Mrs. Mattie C. Franklin at the Medical Care Center in Lynchburg last week. It made our hearts happy to hear she was looking better. We pray she may continue to improve.

Mr. Richard Jenkins, of Baltimore, and Mr. H. W. Jenkins, of Appomattox, was notified that their mother, Mrs. Addie Jenkins, who has been a patient at the Liberty Nursing Home was much worse. Our prayers are with her and each of her loved ones.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Smith and family, of Rustburg, were saddened to hear of Wayne's mother's death last week. Our sympathy and prayers ae with each of her loved ones.

A large crowd attended the shower given Miss Delorious Ann Deaner and Mr. Kenneth Wingfield Saturday night at the Rescue Squad Bldg. in Appomattox. Mrs. Ryland Mayberry, of Newport News, aunt of Miss Deaner and Miss Dawn Deaner were joint hostess for the party. Delightful refreshments were served. They received many nice and useful gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Holt, of Hurt, Va., were visitors Sunday of Mr. H. W. Jenkins.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Davis spent Saturday with Mr. Davis' mother, Mrs. Phyliss Davis of Scottsville.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman during the week were Mr. H. W. Jenkins and Bobby Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wingfield and son, of Roanoke, spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wingfields were Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Dill and three children, of Bedford and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson, Willard and April Watson.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Mayberry and Mrs. loan Mayberry, of Newport News, were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deanner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wingfield and Kenneth were visitors in this home Sunday.

Mr. Grover Beasley, Jr., of Appomattox, visited his mother, Mrs. Virgie Beasley Sunday at the Martin-Wooldridge Nursing Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlis Maxwell and Miss Martha Maxwell were visitors Sunday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Webb and family.

Mr. Walker Webb visited Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Franklin and family Sunday. He called in the home of Mrs. Mary Bagby Friday afternoon.

Visiting Mrs. Mary Bagby Sunday were Mrs. Robert Ayers and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Wingfield, Mr. and Mrs. James Woodall, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and Lisa, Mrs. Alfred Almond and Mrs. Wayne Smith.

JORDAN

The Senior Choir will practice Friday night at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

Preaching services Sunday morning at 11 a.m.

On Sunday evening, beginning at 7 p.m. the Senior Choir will celebrate their 27th anniversary. For a delightful time, plan to attend.

On Saturday night, March 4 there will be a special talent program at the Jordan Baptist Church. There will be talent on this program like you've never seen before - so plan now to attend.

On the first Sunday night in March at 6 p.m., the Gospel Harmonettes will be celebrating their 6th anniversary. Many of your favorite groups will be on the progam - so plan to attend.

PAMPLIN

The Homemakers Extension Club held their monthly meeting Thursday night at the home of Mrs. E. N. Cunningham. The president, Mrs. James Williams, presided. Landscaping was discussed. During the social hour the hostess served refreshments.

Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Hager and family moved to Newport News last Friday. Rev. Hager accepted a call as pastor of the Baptist church there.

Miss Nannie Bell Williams left Friday for Richmond to visit her sister, Mrs. Felix Garmmer and Mr. Grammer.

We welcome to our community Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Jones and family, of Appomattox.

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GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

Good Health Rules Can Improve Your Daily Living

Maintaining good health is no longer the mystery it once was. Today it is a matter of following some basic common sense rules. Health experts say that if we follow these, we will be a healthier, happier person. Some of these common sense tions are:

1. Eat wisely. We find that if we eat slower, our food is more satisfying, and we do not eat as much.

2. Exercise regularly, but remember, strenuous exercises can do you harm unless you first check with your physician. Walking is an excellent exercise that can do no one harm.

3. Stay immuned. Most communicable diseases can be prevented through vaccination. Remember, this is especially important for young children.

4. Rest properly. Young children are taught in kindergarten the importance of plenty of rest. It is equally important for us as adults.

5. Have your teeth checked regularly. Regular dental check-ups not only save you toothaches, but they can preserve your good looks and prevent ailments caused by diseased teeth.

6. Be vehicle smart. Seat belts in use and careful drivers will save thousands of lives each year. Wear those seat belts and drive defensively.

7. Be accident aware or conscious. Keep stairways uncluttered and well lighted. Avoid slippery throw rugs and excessively waxed floors. Also, be careful of runners that are placed to prevent carpets. These can be very dangerous if not carefully placed down so that the edges do not buckle up.

8. Be careful with medicines. Make sure they are kept out of the reach of small children.

9. Schedule physicals. It is always better to find out early if something is wrong, so that proper therapy can be instituted before it's too late.

10. Remember that none of us are immortal. The idea is to try to practice preventive health care so that we can enjoy as long and as vigorous a life as possible.

Follow these common sense rules and let's each of us improve our daily living habits.

Should you have a homemaking question or problem, please call or write the Appomattox County Extension Office. Our phone number is 352-8244 and our post office box is 488.

It is always a pleasure to hear from you. We thank you for reading this column. Have a good week, homemakers.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Squash Patties

1 egg, beaten
1 tablespoon sugar
½ teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper
2 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
1 cup cooked, mashed squash
½ cup self-rising flour
Hot salad oil

Combine all ingredients except salad oil: mix well. Drop mixture by tablespoons into one-eighth-inch hot oil in a large skillet. Flatten patties to ¼-inch thickness. Cook to golden brown; turn and brown on other side. Yield: about 14

NOTE: Frozen squash can be used. Thaw and drain thoroughly before adding to other ingredients.

ROCKS

Another snow storm was predicted over the weekend. But it dwindled out around here. But may come this week.

Lisa Mitchell left last week for the army after being home with the flu.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery Taylor are all smiles. It is a girl, Sarah Browning, born Feb. 16 at the Virginia Baptist Hospital. 7 lbs. 12 oz.

Get well wishes go out to Mrs. Clara Garrett of Evergreen who is not so well. She is confined to the bed for 5 days.

Mrs. Delores Dinkins Cheatham underwent surgery at a hospital in Lyncubrg last week. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Kate Dinkins of Appomattox. A speedy recovery is wished her.

Rev. and Mrs. Doug Hager and children left Friday for his new church in Newport News. Best of luck to them.

Congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Taylor who got another grandchild last week. A daughter born to Keffery and Debbie Taylor of Lynchburg.

A Very sad gloom was cast over the community Saturday when news came that a beloved friend, Dr. J. J. Bowman died at the hospital. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Samuel Martin sold his last dark tobacco on Thursday

Mrs. Edna Covington had surgery last Monday. We wish speedy recovery is wished her.

A number attended the burial of Mrs. J E. Shockley at Spring Creek Church Sunday afternoon. Sympathy is extended the Shockley family.

Rev. A. M. Taylor left onSaturday in an action campaign with the Burrows Memorial Baptist Church in the Tidewater Association.

A number of the Bible School workers met onSunday afternoon to get things in line for the Bible School for Rocks this year.

The Rocks Extension Homemakers Club will meet with Mrs. Addie Baker on March 2nd. at 7:30 p.m.

Glad to gear Jim Richardson is back home from the hospital.

Mrs. Lockie Moore called to see Mr and Mrs. C. E. Richardson and Mrs. Kate Dinkins and son Emmitt at their home here Saturday afternoon.

Peggy T. Staples
RECEIVES PROMOTION

LYNCHBURG - Peggy T. Staples has been named unit manager of records center in the Data Management General Service department at The Babcock & Wilcox Company's Nuclear Power Generation Division.

Staples joined B&W in 1957 as a file clerk and became group leader in the microfilm and central engineering files department in 1973. Her most recent position was supervisor of that department.

The daughter of Mrs. Mazie F. Taylor of Evergreen, she is married to Gordon Staples. The couple resides in Evergreen, Va.

SS Cooperative Dollar Volume Up For Six-Month Period

Southern States' Cooperative's dollar volume for the first 6 months of the 1977-78 fiscal year showed a $4,000,000 increase as compared with the same period last year. All commodity divisions except seed and petroleum showed increases for the period.

This was reported by H. B. Manual, manager-retail sales of the cooperative to the regional board conference of local agricultural leaders and young farmers held at Farmville on Feb. 17.

A total of 19 of these meetings are being this month by the cooperative across the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Manual told the session that the cooperative's volume reached $149,037,000 for the first half of the fiscal year as compared with $145,048,000 a year ago. Net savings after income taxes and equity income totaled $1,400,000, a decrease of $1,587,000 from last year. Factors contributing to this decline were lower margins, higher operating costs, and limited operations of the new Kentucky Feed Mills.

Also appearing on the program was, B. W. Armstrong, vice president-finance who referred to seriousness of the current economic instability on the farm which threatens the "very existence of the family farm." Long-term, however, the future for American agriculture is bright, he said, because the world will continue to rely on American agriculture to supply most of its food needs.

Also participating in the session were, E. W. Sanderson of Cartersville a member of the cooperative's board of directors and Hugh Harris of Richmond the association's regional manager.

Attending the session from Appomattox were Dan G. Coleman, H. W. Coleman, John F. Alvis, Calvin Harris and W. E. Bondurant.

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